

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

January 31, 2003 LB 30, 93

same direction. I'd ask you to advance the bill.

SENATOR ENGEL: Thank you, Senator Schrock. You've heard the motion. The question before the body is the advancement of LB 30. All of those in favor say (sic) aye, those opposed say (sic) nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 33 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 30.

SENATOR ENGEL: The bill is advanced. Senator Schrock, you're recognized to open on LB 93.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, and members of the Legislature, this is another natural resource district bill. I think I understand this one a little better, but we'll see. You never know when you get into something where you're going to end up. Under this bill, any natural resource district that has a Phase IV Ground Water Management Plan could regulate not only the timing of fertilizer applications but the rate of application as part of its best management practices. Currently, only the Central Platte NRD is in a Phase IV Management Plan. This bill has no fiscal impact. A Phase IV Management Plan is, in this case, areas of the state where they have high nitrates in their ground water or they have high nitrates available in the soil for the next crop. I have a map back here, I didn't make copies for everyone, that will show you the Central Platte NRD, and it will show you where the Phase IV areas are. My estimation would be that it would be less than two percent of the agricultural ground in the Central Platte NRD. We have had instances out there in this area where, and this is by far and away just a few operators that causes trouble, where they have taken soil samples and they have tested the water, and the recommendations come back and say that there is 190 pounds of fertilizer, of nitrogen, available for the next year's corn crop. Interestingly enough, that's about what you need to raise 200 bushel of corn, and we've have had instances where their fertilizer dealer says, don't pay any attention to that, just put on 200 pounds of nitrogen. This would allow the NRDs to regulate not only the timing. There are several NRDs, including my NRD, that regulates when certain fertilizers can be